from the development financing to commercial banking. There is no dearth of developmental financing. There are other institutions to meet the requirements. So far as the strike is concerned, I am not in the management of the IDBI. There are so many financial institutions and organisations. Sometimes, there are disputes between the employees and the employer. They settle these disputes through their own mechanism. That is their job.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am asking a very fundamental question. What is the basic objective of this deep discount bond issued by IDBI? To what extent, this objective has been achieved? Whether it is to the advantage of the bond-holder or to the advantage of the bank.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the basic fundamental objective is to collect money. These bonds were issued in 1992 in the financial situation prevailing at that point of time. Simply if you ask the public to deposit money in a bond, they are not going to do it unless this becomes attractive. So, Sir, it will have to be that interests of both the bond purchasers and the bond givers are being provided for.

Irregularities in SSA

*142. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding misuse of funds and other irregularities in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of officers against whom action has been taken for their involvement in the said cases, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

Statement

(a) to (d) The performance Audit report on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August 2006, indicates that an amount of Rs. 53 crores can be classified as expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines.

In addition, reports from States have indicated instances of financial irregularities. Andhra Pradesh reported an embezzlement of Rs.14.98 crores under DPEP/SSA accounts in 2006-07. An FIR was lodged and the State CID investigated the matter. The State Government suspended three accounts officials and transferred another three out of the State Project Office of SSA. In Haryana (2005-2007), 11 officials involved in financial irregularities have been proceeded against wherein services of two officials have been terminated. In Karnataka, action has been taken against 21 officials and an amount of Rs.8.58 lakhs recovered from them. In West Bengal an

amount of Rs.517.80 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn by eight officials in one district, where the CID has arrested seven persons and proceedings are underway. In Gujarat (2007-08) action was taken against two officials involved in financial irregularities and Rs.15.98 lakhs recovered. Nine officials have been suspended. Rajasthan on complaints of misuse of SSA funds and other irregularities. In Himachal Pradesh FIR was lodged on a complaint of misuse of SSA funds and an amount of Rs.3.02 lakhs has been recovered.

The Government of India has directed the States/UTs to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes. The States/UTs have also been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. The Financial and Procurement Manual for SSA lays down detailed procedures on accounting, fund flow arrangements, financial reporting, internal controls, external audit and procurement procedures, etc. Concurrent financial reviews are undertaken by a professional body of auditors, and field monitoring is undertaken by Social Science Institutions.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, the primary objective of starting Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is to have an alternative to universal free and compulsory education in the country. But, if you see the objective and accomplishment, there is a big gap. There are more than 75,884 schools in India with just one teacher and there are 6,647 schools where there is none at all. In spite of incurring such a huge expenditure of Rs.11,133 crores, as many as 1,36,00,000 children are out of school. So, how are you going to meet the serious lapse? What are the steps you are envisaging in the immediate future? This is my question.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, though the question that the hon. Member has asked does not flow out of the question that is being answered by me because the question relates to diversion of funds and misuse of funds. Since the hon. Member has asked the question, I would like to just place on record the fact that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been a relatively, in fact, a largely, very successful scheme, and I just want to place some figures. In fact, in 2002, only 86 per cent of the habitations, in India, was served with primary schools. In 2009, 98 per cent of them are being served, Sir. This is a huge success; 92 per cent of the habitations served by upper primary schools, up from 78 per cent, in 2002; the GER up from 96.3 per cent, in 2002, to 111.2 per cent, in 2007-08, at the primary level; the GER up from 60.2 per cent, in 2002, to 73.6 per cent, in 2007-08 at the upper primary level. The dropout rate has declined from 39, in 2001, to 25.4 in 2007-08; the pupil-teacher ratio has reduced from 38:1 to 33:1. So, there is, I mean, no scheme at this level, and with this kind of magnitude, the way annual allocations are something like Rs.13,000 crores, no such scheme can be 100 per cent perfect. But, I think, we are achieving our objectives at the primary level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is there any second supplementary?

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, to the question the Minister may say that it does not flow from the original one. But, Sir, I am talking, overall, about the functioning of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; the shortcomings which are there, are corruption and irregularities. That is one thing that is being pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, but there are other things which we have to also look into seriously. The Audit Report itself says that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being established to see that there is one primary school within a radius of one kilometre. But, then, as we see, the Audit Report reveals that there are 31,648 inhabitations in 14 States. This is also another serious shortcoming. And for coming out from these shortcomings what is the Government going to do? This is also concerning the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Well, Sir, the hon. Member should know this, and I would like to inform the hon. Member here, that in this Session itself we have brought the Right to Education Bill which deals with all the problems that we are talking about, so that we have a neighbourhood school in every habitation. That is the purpose of bringing the Bill. But that does not mean that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has not worked well. Wherever it has worked, it has worked exceptionally well; wherever there is a gap, we are trying to fill that gap, and that is why the Right to Education Bill.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I compliment the Minister for making the wide coverage, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since within the habitations, the focus, normally, is on the richer sections, and this has been raised in the last Session also, whether he will assure us that they will take a bottom up approach while sanctioning the school buildings. Sir, the SC/ST localities should be taken first; then, the others be covered because the dropout rates are mainly among the poorer sections. I know that it is left to the sarpanches. But is there any guideline issued, while sanctioning the school buildings under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, that the bottom up approach should be taken?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as you know, we are, in fact, trying to take particular care of the weaker sections of the society, SCs/STs. But there are some problems that are beyond the control of the Government, which afflict those communities, and we need to address those problems very seriously. And we are doing so. In fact, the whole Right to Education Bill looks at that issue as well. And we have to reduce the dropout rates, because at the primary level they are fine, but when children go to Class V, Class VI or Class VIII, the dropouts are up to approximately 50 per cent; we have to deal with that problem. But that does not mean that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is not doing well. What it means is that the State must do more. What it means is that we must address that problem and resolve it. And this is exactly what we are trying to do.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें यह बताया है कि जहां-जहां अनियमितताएं बरती गईं, उनमें से कई राज्यों के विरुद्ध राज्यवार आधार पर कार्यवाही की गई है। पश्चिमी बंगाल के बारे में बताया गया है कि वहां के एक जिले में आठ कर्मचारियों द्वारा 517.80 लाख रुपये की राशि

धोखे से निकाल ली गई इसलिए सीआईडी ने सात लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया और उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही चल रही है। मान्यवर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो कार्यवाही चल रही है, वह किस प्रकार की है? इसके बाद आपने इसमें दिया है कि उनसे पैसे वसूल कर लिए गए या उनको दंडित किया गया, लेकिन आपने जो बताया है कि कार्यवाही चल रही है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वह किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही चल रही है?

मान्यवर, साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि वर्ष 2000 से प्रारम्भ सर्वशिक्षा अभियान में सरकार ने अध्यापकों की नियुक्ति का कुछ लक्ष्य निश्चित किया था, जिसे 2006-07 में 6.60 लाख, 2007-08 में 8.10 लाख और 2008-09 में 9.66 लाख रखा गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इनमें से अभी तक कितने अध्यापकों की नियुक्ति हुई है? अगर आप यह जानकारी दें तो अच्छा होगा।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, first of all, the latter question as to how many teachers have been appointed has nothing to do with this question. The question relates to diversion of funds meant for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कलराज मिश्र: मैंने इसलिए यह प्रश्न पूछा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल: एक मिनट, एक मिनट। You have asked the question.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member wants to say that he has asked this question because it is not a part of the question. I am grateful to my learned friend.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: नहीं-नहीं, अभी तो मैंने पूरा सवाल पूछा ही नहीं और आपने उसका उत्तर दे दिया।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: However, there are two kinds of actions that any Government can take under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan where there is diversion of funds. Diversion of funds is of two kinds. One is that the funds are spent on an activity which is not authorised and the second is that the funds are misused for a private purpose. As far as diversion of funds is concerned, when they are spent on an activity which is not authorised, like spending on civil works instead of authorised activity, what we do is we recoup the money from the State Government and to the extent it is not recouped we take it from the share of the State Government for the next year. That is what we do for diversion of funds, and for embezzlement, we file criminal cases and wherever there is embezzlement, we have to suspend the officials and file criminal cases. The FIRs are lodged and prosecution goes on. That is exactly what is happening.

As far as the appointment of teachers is concerned, this is one of the biggest problems that this country is facing. We don't have enough teachers at the school level. We need to have a national programme to recruit enough teachers and we are doing so, both under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and otherwise.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: नहीं-नहीं, अभी तो मैंने पूरा सवाल पूछा ही नहीं और आपने उसका उत्तर दे दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: One supplementary, please. Shri Tariq Anwar.

श्री तारिक अनवर: सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है, यह बात सही है कि सर्वशिक्षा अभियान काफी हद तक क़ामयाब है। यह बात ठीक है कि भ्रष्टाचार की कुछ शिकायतें हैं, लेकिन फिर भी आज गांवों में जो स्कूलों की बिल्डिंग्स हमें दिखाई पड़ रही हैं, यह सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के कारण ही दिखाई पड़ रही हैं। लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी से ज़रा इससे हटकर यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बहुत सारे ऐसे बच्चे हैं, जिन्हें स्कूल उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, लेकिन मदरसा और संस्कृत विद्यालय, जो राज्य सरकार के द्वारा आर्थिक सहायता प्राप्त हैं,

क्या उनको भी सर्व शिक्षा अभियान में लिया जा सकता है, जिससे उन बच्चों को भी पढ़ने की सुविधा प्राप्त हो सके?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I think what we need to do is to have separate schemes to deal with some of these issues. As far as the question of Madrasas .....

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: I talked of Sanskrit Vidyalayas also.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: ...and also Sanskrit Vidyalayas are concerned, we have separate schemes to deal with them. As far as Madrasas are concerned, in fact, we want to develop a consensus through which we can impart secular education in Madrasas without impacting on the religious education that is imparted there. We are hoping in the times to come to give them an equivalent of a CBSE degree. If they get a degree which allows them to move on to polytechniques or to a university system, which is not available at present, I think the Madrasas would benefit greatly. We are contemplating that stream and I am in the process of developing a national consensus on that. I think the Members of this House will also support me in that.

Schemes to unearth black money

*143. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:††
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 294 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21 December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Expert Group set up by Government has recommended special schemes to unearth black money and assets;

(b) if so, the amount of black money presently in and outside the country and the schemes to unearth the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no official estimate of the amount of black money presently in and outside the country. At the instance of the Government, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had in 1985 conducted a study "Aspects of black money in India" in which the amount of black money in the country in the year 1983-84 was estimated between Rs.31,584 crore and Rs.36,786 crore. The authors of the study had, however, admitted that their estimate was based on numerous assumptions and approximations, each of which could be challenged. Subsequently no fresh study has been conducted by the Government on the amount of black money.

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.